

achievements of the Deerfield Beach High School Concert and Jazz Band. Under the direction and guidance of Mr. Dean Calmer and with the assistance of Deerfield Beach High principal, Dr. Joe Melita, these young people have illustrated skill accompanied by an unyielding work ethic and commitment. As a result of their perseverance, the Deerfield High Band became the only musicians selected from the State of Florida to participate in the "American Musical Salute to DC" which commemorated the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. The band preformed superbly and represented the State of Florida in an honorable fashion. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Deerfield Beach Concert and Jazz Band, and the young people involved who in an era of violence and disparity have still managed to remain focused and as a result make beautiful music.

HONORING THE LITTLE HAITI
HOUSING ASSOCIATION, INC.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc. [LHHA], for its receipt of the *Maxwell Award of Excellence* from the Fannie Mae Foundation. Mr. David Harder, executive director of LHHA accepted the award Tuesday, May 20, during the foundation's ninth annual awards ceremony.

The Fannie Mae Foundation recognized LHHA for its scattered site home ownership project which is a model for the Nation. The program renovates abandoned houses that have become havens for drug dealers and redevelops vacant lots used as trash dumps. Between July 1995 and June 1996, the project successfully renovated 10 homes and built 1 new home. Since the project's inception in 1987, LHHA's dedicated workers renovated or built 48 homes, thus enabling 48 families to become homeowners.

Mr. Harder regards LHHA as more than a housing program; it is, "a tool to restore stability in communities." LHHA's contribution to that philosophy is illustrated by the array of services offered to homeowners and persons qualifying for home ownership.

LHHA designs services and programs to strengthen members of the Dade community. Home buyers complete the association's 8-week home ownership training program. Classes are offered in Haitian-Creole, Spanish, and English. LHHA also offers classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages; post-purchase counseling; the banking system; citizenship preparation; and job skills training.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work of Executive Director Harder and his team, Jules LaBossiere, president of the board of directors and Jacques Saint-Louis, assistant director. Their tireless efforts to provide safe affordable housing to this community in Dade County is much appreciated. Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc., sends a strong message to drug dealers and others, that we will take our communities back.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002:

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the balanced budget agreement, embodied in the budget resolution. For the first time since I came to Congress, in fact for the first time since 1969, we shall hopefully balance the Federal budget under a 5-year plan. While I would prefer a balanced budget for fiscal year 1998, nevertheless this is a blueprint which if followed by subsequent Congresses and the President, will finally result in a balanced budget in 2002. This agreement also provides for significant tax relief that will allow working Americans to keep more of their hard earned dollars and it takes significant steps to restrain the growth of entitlement spending. Of particular importance, it will insure that Medicare will remain solvent for another 10 years.

The budget compromise we consider today is, however, by definition imperfect. It was achieved through laborious and lengthy negotiations that were conducted by congressional leaders and the President. Both sides made compromises and had to give up points that were of great importance to them. I for one would have liked to see greater efforts at reforming entitlements and deficit reduction. However, the nature of compromise requires that both sides give up goals that they value highly, in order to achieve something of even greater value. The road to a balanced budget agreement is unquestionably of such great value.

Tinkering with the terms of the agreement may potentially cause the entire budget deal to collapse. An amendment offered by Congressman SHUSTER, which would designate that moneys taken from the transportation trust fund should go towards increased transportation spending, is basically sound. But it would upset the carefully balanced terms that were agreed to by congressional leaders and the President. I do oppose the practice of using taxes levied for an express purpose—such as taxes levied for transportation purposes—for uses other than the purpose for which such taxes were levied. In this case however, I reluctantly oppose the Shuster amendment, which would disrupt the carefully negotiated terms of the budget agreement, potentially leading to the collapse of the entire agreement. The amendment also would take moneys from education, defense and other important spending priorities. If adopted, the Shuster amendment would have reduced defense spending by \$5.65 billion, education by \$980 million, criminal justice by \$510 million and housing and child health programs by \$860 million.

While it is not perfect, the balanced budget agreement represents an important step to-

ward ultimately having Congress pass annual balanced budgets. It is therefore an important first step in finally eliminating annual deficits and moving Congress towards a reduction of our Nation's large national debt. I therefore urge Members to join in support of the bipartisan budget agreement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BEACHWOOD
BOROUGH VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.
NO. 1 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 7, 1997, the Beachwood Borough Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Beachwood, NJ, established in 1917, is a sleepy hamlet located on the Toms River far removed from the hustle and bustle of the Jersey Shore tourist area. The residents of Beachwood have a long history of being friendly, open, and giving to those in need within their community. Nothing exemplifies this more than the volunteers who have given their time to help Beachwood fight fires within the town.

Firefighters serve a unique and extremely important role in our society. Many of us take the duties performed by volunteer firefighters for granted. Each day, these individuals put their lives at risk in order to protect the public from tragedy.

What is unique about volunteer firefighters is that they protect us without any financial compensation. Across the country, almost 90 percent of the firefighters are volunteers. These volunteers spend many hours away from their families and jobs in order to protect us and our families. They do not fight fires for financial rewards. They fight fires for the love of their community.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Beachwood, I would like to thank the brave volunteers of the Beachwood Borough Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for their service to their community and congratulate them on their 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL T.
GONZALES ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 30
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE MONTEBELLO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montebello Police Captain Michael T. Gonzales on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to the community of Montebello.

Captain Gonzales was born in Los Angeles, CA, and attended St. Alphonsus Elementary School, Eastmont Junior High School, and Montebello High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from the